

Abstract of the Disclosure

Provided is a method for formatting and interleaving error correction blocks adaptively for improving a capability of correcting short burst errors in a high density DVD. The interleaving method includes the steps of merging a plurality of error code correction (ECC) blocks, each having a predetermined size, in a horizontal direction, to form a merged ECC block, and storing the merged ECC block in a buffer in units of a predetermined number of rows and interleaving the ECC block in units of a predetermined number of bytes in accordance with a predetermined interleaving rule. Since ECC block data of every two lines is first buffered and then interleaved by every four bytes rather than one by one byte, the interleaving speed can be increased and the memory required for interleaving can be saved.